

named the County an "Employer of Choice." In 2019, he was the first county manager to receive the "County Manager of the Year" award from the Colorado City and County Management Association.

Mr. Gonzales has dutifully implemented the policies and priorities of the Board of County Commissioners and expertly overseen the day-to-day operations of the county throughout his tenure. Mr. Gonzalez managed many initiatives that positively impacted the residents of Adams County. Initiatives such as the People and Culture Services Department, the establishment of a new animal shelter, the completion of the state-of-the-art human services building, and a new Veterans memorial dedicated to Adams County Veterans who served and sacrificed for their country.

We thank Mr. Gonzales for his years of service to Adams County, and we are pleased he will be taking the next step in his career as the President of the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation (MDEDC) and Executive Vice President of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. We look forward to the incredible things he will do for the State of Colorado.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS

#### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 23, 2021*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise, along with my colleague, Congressman STEVE COHEN, fellow co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Global Road Safety, to mark the 26th World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (World Day) on Sunday, November 21, 2021.

On this solemn event, families, advocates, and leaders around the world gather to remember the tens of millions of lives impacted by road crashes and the bravery of the first responders and health care workers who work valiantly to save as many lives as possible.

World Day of Remembrance was initiated in 1995 as the European Day of Remembrance and quickly spread around the globe. In 2005 the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 60/2, recognizing the third Sunday in November as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

Every year, the goals of the World Day of Remembrance are to remember all people killed and seriously injured on the roads; acknowledge the crucial work of the emergency services; advocate for better support to road traffic victims and their families; and promote evidence-based actions to prevent and eventually stop further road traffic deaths and injuries.

More than one million people die from road crashes every year, and tens of millions are seriously injured. Road traffic crashes are the number one killer of young people aged 15–29, the third leading killer of Americans abroad, and the eighth leading cause of death among all people worldwide. Despite these figures, our understanding of the full scope of the problem is still lacking, and additional data collection is imperative.

World Day of Remembrance 2021 also focuses on reduction of traffic speeds. Studies

have shown unequivocally that lowering speeds has the potential to prevent many deaths and serious injuries, in particular those of pedestrians and all other vulnerable road users like children, people with disabilities, and the elderly.

This year also marks the beginning of the second global Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030, which has a primary goal of reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries caused by road traffic accidents by at least 50 percent by 2030. Additionally, in October 2021, Congressman COHEN and I officially relaunched the Congressional Caucus on Global Road Safety, working closely with the Association for Safe International Road Travel (ASIRT), the leading U.S. nonprofit advocating for safe travel on the world's roads.

Rochelle Sobel founded ASIRT in response to the death of her son Aron, a 22-year-old medical student who was killed in a bus crash in Turkey along with 23 other passengers. ASIRT works to improve the safety of travelers through education and advocacy and was instrumental in encouraging the establishment of the Caucus in 2004.

Looking ahead to what we must accomplish in this second Decade of Action, it is crucial that we collaborate to enact common sense solutions to meaningfully reduce the terrible toll of road crashes. We know how to save lives, now we must muster the will and courage to act with conviction.

As Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Global Road Safety, we implore our colleagues, partners, stakeholders, industry leaders and decision-makers worldwide to heed the message of World Day to "remember, support, and act" to improve road safety and prevent avoidable tragedies. We look forward to welcoming more of our colleagues to the Caucus and working in earnest to provide leadership and make tangible advances to reduce road deaths.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF GORDON "MACK" MCKINLEY, JR.

#### HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 23, 2021*

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend, Gordon "Mack" McKinley, Jr., who passed away on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at the age of 72.

Mack and I grew up together in Beaumont, Texas, survived high school together and were roommates and fraternity brothers during college at the University of Texas.

Mack was a guy you could count on in good times and bad times to always have a positive outlook. He learned it through an adversity that terrified the mothers of our generation and left its mark on those who survived it. But Mack was strong and resilient, and he never let polio define him.

He was born on November 14, 1948, in Galveston, Texas, and named after his dad, Gordon McKinley, Sr. He was an only child, but a friend to many.

Like many students at the University of Texas in Austin, Mack fell in love with the city and stayed on after graduation. In 1974, he opened a club called The Common Interest which quickly became a popular hangout and

has been an Austin institution for the last 47 years. The Common Interest provided a great gathering place where sports games could be enjoyed with friends, songs could be sung and fun could be had by all, especially Mack, a huge fan of the University of Texas Longhorns.

Mack also fell in love with a girl he met in the Common Interest, named Shannon Wilson, with whom he shared a happy married life for 45 years. Mack and Shannon began their lives together in Austin, Texas in 1976 and were blessed with three sons Michael, Kevin and Brandon. Shannon was the love of his life. He considered her and their family his greatest blessing and his greatest accomplishment throughout his life being a father. He was an enthusiastic fan and supporter of his three boys in the various sports they played. To this day, his son's jerseys still hang with pride on the walls of The Common Interest.

Mack was an avid golfer all his life. A special gift from his sons a few years ago was a trip to the Master's Tournament in Augusta, Georgia.

Mack never quit doing things on his own terms, overcoming physical limitations that may have caused others to give up. He accepted life's challenges, he worked hard, he was a loving son, husband, father and grandfather or "Pops" as he was known, and he was my lifelong friend and inspiration.

I will miss him.

Mack is survived by his wife, Shannon McKinley, his son Michael McKinley, wife Brie, kids Bodie and Kai, his son Kevin McKinley, wife Candace, kids Kaylee, Kenna, Kensi and Kason, and son Brandon McKinley, wife Amber, kids Dakota and Merritt. Mack is also survived by numerous cousins close to Dallas, Chicago and Nashville.

Madam Speaker, today I honor my close friend and college roommate Mack McKinley. His example of fortitude and strength to overcome obstacles will not be forgotten, and my heartfelt prayers remain with his family and friends during this difficult time.

#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF REVEREND DR. DEFOREST B. SOARIES

#### HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 23, 2021*

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Dr. DeForest B. Soaries on his retirement as the spiritual leader and senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset, New Jersey. As a pioneer in the faith-based community, Dr. Soaries shared his teachings of spiritual growth, educational excellence, and economic development for the last three decades.

Reverend Soaries served not just his flock, but as the first African American man to hold the prestigious position of New Jersey's Secretary of State, he led the entire great State of New Jersey. Dr. Soaries devoted his time to implementing grassroots initiatives to enhance the quality of life for thousands of New Jersey residents. Bridging the gap between underserved communities and voting accessibility as former chairman of the United States Election